

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A lightweight, rust-resistant downcomer for use in conveying a substance from an upper level of a marine vessel to a lower level of the marine vessel, comprising:

a pair of spaced apart mounting portions adapted for attachment to a side of the marine vessel; and

an elongate impact portion extending between the spaced apart mounting portions and bordering a concave space through which the substance is conveyed, the elongate impact portion made of an ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene.

2. (original) The downcomer of claim 1, further comprising a liner lining the concave space.

3. (original) The downcomer of claim 2, in which the liner includes a synthetic elastomeric tube.

4. (original) The downcomer of claim 1, in which the mounting portions include a mounting hole for receiving a mounting fastener for attaching the downcomer to the side of the marine vessel.

5. (original) The downcomer of claim 4, in which the mounting fastener is selected from the group consisting essentially of bolts, studs, screws, and rivets.

6. (original) The downcomer of claim 1, further including a pigment.

7. (original) The downcomer of claim 1, further including an ultraviolet stabilizer.

8. (previously amended) The downcomer of claim 1, in which the mounting portions and the elongate impact portion form an integral structure made of an ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene.

9. (original) The downcomer of claim 8, in which the integral structure is formed by a method selected from a group consisting essentially of extrusion, co-extrusion, and hot bending.

10. (original) The downcomer of claim 1, in which the elongate impact portion has a generally U-shaped cross-section.

11. (original) A downcomer assembly including multiple downcomers in accordance with claim 1, aligned end-to-end.

Claims 12-13 (canceled)

14. (currently amended) A downcomer, comprising:

a structure made of an ultrahigh molecular weight polyolefin and having a first mounting portion and a second mounting portion spaced apart and adapted for attachment

to a side wall of a marine vessel, and an elongate impact portion bounded by an outer surface and a concave inner surface and extending between the spaced apart mounting portions; and

further comprising a synthetic elastomeric tube comprised of neoprene and positioned within a space bordered by the concave inner surface such that the tube is adjacent to the concave inner surface and to the side wall of the marine vessel when the downcomer is mounted to the marine vessel.

Claims 15-18 (canceled)